

North American Conference of British Studies  
Council Meeting, 23 October 2003  
Portland, Oregon  
4:00-8:00pm

Attendance: President Martin Wiener, Vice-President Cynthia Herrup, Immediate Past President Linda Peck, Bill Lubenow (Vice President-Elect), Nancy LoPatin-Lummis (Treasurer), Phil Harling (Executive Secretary), Douglas M. Haynes (Associate Executive Secretary), Seth Koven (Program Chair), David Savage (PNWCBS), Bob Woods (PCCBS), Newton Key (MWCBS), Philippa Levine (Elected Council Member), Gail Savage (British Studies Intelligencer), Donna Andrew (Elected Council Member), Ginger Frost (Elected Council Member), Randall McGowen (Elected Council Member), Emily Tambiteau (Elected Council Member), Eric Carlson (Elected Council Member), Nick Rogers and Jim Epstein (Editors of Journal of British Studies), Michael Moore (Editor, Albion), and Peter Hansen (Webmaster).

1. Approval of minutes of the NACBS Council meeting of November 7, 2002:  
Motion for approval of minutes as written moved by President Wiener and seconded.  
Passed unanimously.
2. Announcement of next Vice President:  
President Wiener introduced Vice President-Elect Bill Lubenow.
3. President Wiener announced the resignation of NACBS's first Webmaster Peter Hansen. The Council expressed its deep appreciation to Peter for his outstanding work setting up and developing our website. The Executive Committee is searching for a replacement, and members of Council were asked to forward suggestions.
4. Treasurer's Report (Nancy LoPatin-Lummis). Presented revised report (See statement of cash receipts). Investment report erroneously indicated that NACBS lost \$22,000. (See revised statement report on investments). Membership report shows that NACBS has 950 dues paying members; little change from last year. (See membership report). Treasurer Report as amended acceptance moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - a) Treasurer drew attention to the rising costs of the AHA reception for NACBS. President Wiener suggested that this event may be a candidate for cancellation due to lost of support for other activities from the British Council. It has not been well attended. Better use of funds to support graduate student travel for panel presenters at either regional or AHA meetings. Council decided not to act until after 2004 AHA. Moved by Eric Carlson that Executive Committee to decide on behalf of the Council on whether to continue or cancel event. Seconded and passed unanimously.
5. Program Committee Report. Seth Koven summarized report concerning Portland meeting. Approximately 200 registered conferees at this point, but expected to rise as people arrived. [See David Savage for final number.] Noticed drop in the number of panel and paper submissions. Beyond this, mix of submissions is generally the same as

previous years. Medieval historians need to be encouraged to participate. Optimistic about Philadelphia meeting in 2005. Concerns raised about conflicts with Victorian Studies Association, South Asian Studies Conference as well as Sixteenth Century Studies meetings with NACBS meeting. Acceptance of report moved by Bill Lubenow and passed unanimously.

6. President Wiener reported that 2004 meeting is in Philadelphia October 29-31, Denver October 7-9, 2005 and the meeting in 2006 will take place in Boston on November 17-19. Minneapolis suggested as a possible venue for a NACBS meeting.

7. Election results. Phil Harling reported results of 2003. Turn out increased by 3% to 19% of eligible members. UCP will supervise web-based election in the future for a one-time set-up charge of \$500.00. In the future all elections will be electronic. Paper ballots will be made available upon request and by post. NACBS will be charged \$200.00 for paper ballots and postage. (See report).

8. Prizes and fellowships. Phil Harling announced prizes and fellowships. (See report).

9. Canadian British Studies Student Essay Contest. Donna Andrew for Robert Tittler reported the winners of the contest and the renewal of British Council support for two more years. (See report). Motion to ratify procedure of personnel change on the essay contest committee by Phil Harling, seconded and passed unanimously. Council expressed its thanks to Robert Tittler in overseeing the Contest and securing continuation of British Council support. President moved a resolution of thanks to Robert Tittler and selection committee. Passed unanimously.

10. Webmaster. Peter Hansen announced that he is stepping down. He urged the Council to continue providing Webmaster with \$1000.00 budget. Drew attention to BSI's web presence on NACBS. Could be utilized for activities of the organizations, links to site elsewhere, professional information, and pedagogical themes as they relate to British Studies. (See report). President Wiener proposed a resolution of thanks to Peter Hansen for his services to the NACBS over four years as webmaster. Seconded and passed unanimously. For future webmaster, Program Chair Seth Koven recommended the creation of a site on the NACBS web-site for finding and forming possible panelists.

### 13. Reports from Journals:

a) British Studies Intelligencer. Gail Savage presented report on the electronic format of the BSI. It is still under development. (See report).

b) Albion. Michael Moore reported. (See report).

14. Albion/Journal of British Studies. President Wiener discussed recommendation of the Executive Committee to merge two journals to form a new and improved journal. After Michael Moore announced his forthcoming retirement as Albion editor, the President appointed committee in Spring 2002 and reported to Executive Committee October 2002. In November 2002 Council charged President to open negotiations with

commercial and university presses. The presses preferred merging the two journals. Proposed merged journal would have same number of pages of the two journals combined, including reviews section, and be published four times a year. Cambridge and Chicago University Presses were short-listed. President recommended Chicago based on University of Chicago Press editorial performance with JBS in past. Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation. President passed out financial particulars of the proposed merged journals and discussed enhancements over current arrangement. (See "Financial Arrangements" Document) These are: increased financial support for editorial office (\$35,000/year); guaranteed royalties in the amount of \$24,000.00 per year while CUP retained subscription revenue; subscription rate would increase slightly (for a new and improved journal) for those members who now choose not to take JBS, but decrease for the large majority who now do take JBS. Other non-financial advantages: professional publishing treatment would be consistent with high standards, enhance profile of publication among historians would wide, and promote coherence in the organization of NACBS publications.

Philippa Levine pointed out that future editors will have more work with an expanded journal. It may affect the number of editors needed and available as well as institutional support from hosting universities and colleges, i.e. office space and release time. The demands and resources of the new editorial regime may reduce the number of eligible institutions. Jim Epstein (editor of JBS) noted that institutions with two British historians might be ideal. Private and public partnership among regional institutions may be possible with editors from different institutional affiliations, according to Cynthia Herrup (President-Elect). Bob Woods transmitted PCCBS President Joe Block's concerns: merger may dilute editorial diversity and jeopardize Albion subscribers' future relationship with NACBS. Jim Epstein noted that it is hard to distinguish motives of subscribers and members in relationship to the Journals and membership in NACBS. A merged journal will make it easier for UCP to manage membership. Eric Carlson thought that the costs of membership was manageable for scholars from smaller, private institution. Seth Koven thought merging was appropriate.

Michael Moore reported that his Department chair expressed interest in retaining Albion at ASU. Interim Dean of ASU was disposed to support the chair's request. (Letter from Interim Dean Aeschleman circulated). Michael Moore reported that the Interim Dean was prepared to restore position in Tudor Stuart England (that was discontinued) and replace Michael Moore with a senior faculty member after his retirement. President Wiener believes that this current proposal (which would require NACBS to return the ownership of Albion and its title to ASU gratis) would doom the merging proposal. Donna Andrew raised concern about commitment of ASU because of the interim status of the Dean. Jim Epstein suggested an alternative scenario: ASU could found their own publication. The issue is the use of the title Albion and its brand value. Peter Hansen insisted that the Council is charged with making decision for NACBS and the merge is in the best interests of the organization while supporting ASU to promote British Studies in related ways. Emily Tambiteau felt that adopting the present proposal would negatively affect the conference as some members may preferred to continue with Albion.

Peter Hansen suggested exploring ways to recognize the connection of ASU and Michael Moore through a J-Store archive. Nancy LoPatin-Lummis reported that Executive Committee suggested renaming British Council Prize as the Albion Prize in recognition of the long term affiliation of ASU and labors of Michael Moore in association with Albion. In the interest of continuity, Eric Carlson suggested a letter in the inaugural number of the merged journal. The volumes number will follow JBS' sequence. David Savage suggested Dean Aeschleman be informed of the decision and the timing and practicality of the ASU proposal as reported by Michael Moore. Council considered a number of issues related to the final UCP merger proposal, which were clarified as follows:

- a) merge JBS/Albion
- b) start date beginning in either January or July 2005 (to be settled later)
- c) merged journal to appear 4 times a year

Moved by Philippa Levine (as modified by President Wiener) to accept the following motion on the recommendation of the Executive Committee

- (1) that the two journals sponsored by the NACBS be combined into one that will contain approximately the same amount of material as now in the two publications, to be called the "Journal of British Studies", with subtitle "incorporating Albion";
- (2) this new journal to be published by the University of Chicago Press, under the terms that are editorially and financially significantly more attractive more than our current journals;
- (3) the new journal would come as part of NACBS membership, as Albion now does; and
- (4) the membership fee initially would be less than the current fee for taking both journals (and would not rise any faster in future years than would be the case for the two current journals).

Seconded by Nancy LoPatin-Lummis. Passed Unanimously.

15. Discussion of Thatcher Foundation. Donna Andrew moved the following motion: That NACBS not pursue an application to Thatcher Foundation for funds. Seconded Randall McGowen. Yes: 12; No: 2; Abstentions: 3. Motion passes.

Regional Presidents reports:

- a) Northwest Regional Conference proposed dissolution of the NWCBS and merging with PCCBS or WCBS due to declining interest and participation. Divide treasury according to distribution of membership between PCCBS and WCBS.
- b) Bill Lubenow directed attention to decline in the contributions from the regional check-off on the membership renewal form. Bob Woods (PCCBS) pointed out that web renewal form needs to include check-off box. Seth Koven pointed out that people find the renewal paper form confusing. Suggestions that the Executive Committee consult the membership forms of 16<sup>th</sup> Studies, AHA and other organization to revise current form. In

future, members need to be notified that they have been renewed as well as clarify life membership privileges regarding journals.

c) Midwest and Southern Conferences pointed out that the reduction of travel funds may be contributing to declining participation rates.

16. Meeting Adjourned.